

VZCZCXR05063

PP RUEHAG RUEHDA RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHIK RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHLN RUEHLZ
RUEHROV RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAK #2287 1161023
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 261023Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5096
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS ANKARA 002287

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY: MFA REACTION TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S ARMENIAN
REMEMBRANCE DAY STATEMENT

¶1. Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Namik Tan made the following statement April 25, in reply to a question about President Bush's Armenian Remembrance Day statement.

Informal Embassy translation follows:

Begin Text

&This year, as every year, the U.S. President continued the practice of issuance of a written statement on April 24 on the occasion of &Armenian Remembrance Day.⁸

Naturally it is not possible for us to share some assessments in the above mentioned statement.

History can only be written and evaluated on the basis of official documents that have undisputed authenticity. In this process, the source to be approached is archives.

Only in this way can the disputed part of the joint history of Turkish and Armenian people be studied scientifically and an evaluation can only be made under the light of all findings.

From this aspect, our proposal to enable studying 1915 incidents, together with the developments before and after, by a joint history committee, and sharing the findings with the public, is an initiative that should be supported, since it will both cast light on this controversial period of history and help normalization of relations between the two countries. We regard references in the statement to the view of establishment of joint committees, a positive element.⁸

End Text.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON